A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 18. 1708.

More FRENCH *Spectacles yet.*

I Am sorry this Spectacle-Tale has held me so long, for I know you do not love a long Story, be it never so much to the Purpose; and perhaps in some Cases this in particular may pinch a little too close, but I must go on yet a little farther with *my History of* French *Spectacles.*

This Nation being perfectly enlightned at the Revolution, *as in the Conclusion of my last I made appear*, it might be very natural to enquire, how came we to stand in need *of Spectacles again?* —— It would require too long a History, and tend only, *Renovare Dolorem*, to tell, how the general Infatuation return'd upon this People? And yet I cannot but hint at the Heads.

How some had no sooner made no right Use of their Spectacles, to restore Liberty and Property; but upon not having their Ambition or Covetuousness answer'd, they fell into *Sullenness* and *Hypo*, and the Vapours of Envy fuming up into their Heads, Dimness of Sight follow'd of Course.

How others, entangled in Controversies and Niceties about *Loyalty, Oaths* and *Government*, bewildred themselves in the Bogs and Brakes of confus'd Notions, till being us'd long to walk in Darkness, they lost their Sight; *and Spectacles, you know, are quite useless in the Dark.*

How

How others, frighted with Political Out-Cries rais'd by the Agents of Darkneſs, *about the Danger of the Church*, run into Extremes by the meer Hurry of their Imaginations, and loſing their Spectacles in the Fright, could never find them again, and have been dim-ſighted ever ſince.

To cure theſe, we had a very kind Aſſiſtance among other Court Helps, from a meer Accident, which help'd us to a very large Quantity of Spectacles, and theſe were imported for us by a certain honeſt Sett of Gentlemen call'd TACKERS. *Theſe* ſupply'd us with one Million, one Hundred, thirty four Thouſand Pair of very good Spectacles, which being diſpers'd all over the Nation, were of great Uſe to us; for they enlightned us in a great Meaſure, and to many good Effects; ſuch as,

Chooſing an honeſt Parliament, rejecting a High *Wou'd-Be-Speaker*, ſuppreſſing *Coventry* Tumults, diſcouraging the Attempts of making Vagabonds of diſſenting Miniſters, and a thouſand ſuch Things, which are too long to repeat; and under the Operation of this laſt Parcel of Spectacles, Thanks be to GOD, we retain a Competence of Illumination in both Nations; and if the *French* would but come and bring us over a Recruit of Spectacles, *for we cannot yet learn to make them here*, perhaps we might arrive to another general Cure of our Blindneſs, equal to that at the Revolution: Therefore, good People, if you have any Sence of your Blindneſs, and reſolve, *as I doubt too many of you do*, to be cured no other way, *O let the* French *come by all means*, never hinder them, for they will certainly cure you of all the Remains of Darkneſs, that dwell upon your Politick Eye-ſight; they'll bring you Spectacles in Abundance; and now we are much upon Improvement of Manufactures, and ſupplying the Defects of Trade, *the ſhorteſt Way, viz. by quite deſtroying it*; perhaps we may learn to make *French* Spectacles in the *North* of *Britain*, tho' we could never do it in the *South*; *and if ſo*, we may chance never to be blind again; mean Time the Cure is a Thing ſo neceſſary, and which the whole Nation wants ſo much, let the *French* or any Body do it, I am almoſt of the *Spaniards* Mind, *Let the Cure be wrought, tho' the Devil be the Doctor*

I come now to enquire into the Occaſion we have for *French* Spectacles at this Time and of what Uſe they would be to us in the preſent Circumſtances of *Britain*; for if we do not want them, the Argument is of no Force, *for who would lay out their Money for a Commodity they have no Occaſion for?* and I am very plain with you, Gentlemen, I aſſure you, you will not have them *Gratis*; if you will have them, you muſt pay for them, we always paid for them, and ſometimes very dear too, tho' I cannot ſay, but in the End they have been worth our Money too. for, [*Experience teaches beſt when dear-eſt bought*] but I ſhall talk of the Price by it ſelf.

As to the Uſefulneſs and preſent Occaſion of theſe Spectacles then, in order to convince you, that you ought to buy the Parcel the *French* may bring, let them be never ſo many; pray, let me think of a few Sorts of People, that may be ſuppoſed to want them ———

And *Firſt*, Gentlemen in the *South*, *you that were formerly for the Revolution*, and fac'd about again to *your old Principles* of Paſſive-Obedience and original Slavery; a Pair of *French* Spectacles ſcrew'd on hard upon your Noſes, and a true Method of uſing them taught you *by your* French *Inſtructors*, *Viz.* a long Handle put upon them, and a *Jeſuit* at the End of it *to lead you by it* into the old true Steps of *Maudlin College*, and *High Commiſſion-Tyranny*, making you the Tools to erect Idolatry upon the Ruin of the Proteſtant Religion; this Pair of Spectacles would open your blind Eyes again, and thro' theſe Glaſſes you would decently learn to ſee, the *Onyons* and *Garlick* of *Egypt* be a *nauſeous Sort of Dyet*, compared to the *Milk and Honey* of *Canaan*, and the *Fleſh Pots* of the Houſe of Bondage, a ſurfeiting Food, when ſet by the *Vine* and the *Figtree* of Property without Slavery. This would be an admirable Illumination, *and I believe, no Man will ſay you do not want it.*

Secondly,

Secondly, You Gentlemen in the *North*, that are blind to the Difference between a Union with *French* Popery and Proteſtant *Engliſhmen*, and, *if there be any left among you that are ſo blind*, with to ſee the Exchange; As ſoon as ever the *French* land, *do but buy* a Pair of *French* Spectacles, you may have them at the cheap Price, *perhaps* of plundering a little of your *Gear*, or RAVISHING One or Two of your Daughters, Things of no Value, *you know*, compar'd to your Deliverance from *Engliſh Bondage*. Well, and what will theſe *French* Spectacles do? —Why, being decently led by the Noſe back to that pleaſant Condition from whence the Revolution reſcued you, you may have the Pleaſure to ſee again thro' theſe Glaſſes, your Miniſters depoſed, and the Gaols filled with them, the Soldiers empowered to SHOOT EVERY MAN upon the *Highway*, that would not *renounce the Covenant*, and Women ty'd to Stakes in the Sea *at Low Water Mark*, till the Tide flow'd over them; they won't ſay, *GOD ſpeed* to Popery and Tyranny, as in the late Reigns was practiſed upon you——— And theſe being but Trifles compar'd to the Hardſhips *England* puts upon you *by the Union*, theſe Spectacles will give you Light to make a rational Choice.

O who will you buy any French *Spectacles?*

Thirdly, You *High Flyers* that groan under the heavy Burthen of Moderation, you Men of Books and Words that covet Peace without Union, that hate the Government becauſe they won't perſecute, and the QUEEN becauſe Her Majeſty preſſes you to Peace; O buy ſome *French* Spectacles, Sir *H*... Indeed you want them.

You Gentlemen of the *High Church* of *England*, that ſubmit to the Meaneſt of having your Cauſe pleaded by *Papiſts* and *Non-Jurors*, that own the Labours of the Rehearſer of your Shame, as if no Man could defend your Cauſe, but he that damns your Principle, and diſowns your Foundation; that are blinded with the Farce of a ſpurious Argument, and cannot ſee the Illegitimacy of the Author, nor the Extent of his Deſign; O buy ſome *French* Spectacles, they will immediately help your Eye ſight.

You perjur'd Wretches, that ſwear to the preſent Government, and yet eſpouſe a *Jacobite* Intereſt, that call your ſelves Proteſtants, embrace the Church of *England* Doctrine, and rave *ſome of you* in her Pulpits; that have given your Faith to Queen ANN, and yet *ſecretly own*, with and *all* for the *French* Pretender, and a *Popiſh* Government; that enjoy Liberty, yet ſeek the ſubjecting your Country to *French* Bondage, and ſurrendring your Poſterity to a Slavery, you know not the Meaning of; if you have any Sence left, any Remains of Light in your Underſtanding, or Deſire to encreaſe it, *by all Means buy ſome* French *Spectacles*; a little Experience of them, and their being well fitted to your Paſſive Noſes, *and ſcrew'd right for Leading*, will reform your Underſtandings, and bring you to your ſelves again *O buy your ſelves ſome Spectacles.*

You MODERN PROTESTANTS, that are uneaſie under the Toleration of Religion to your Neighbours, that being impatient to have the Plunder of your Diſſenting Brethren, would rather venture to bring in Popery to plunder us all; that would be content to hazard the whole Church of *England* to blow up the *Preſbyterians*, according to the wiſe Method of *ſinking the Ship to drown the Rats*; that hate a *Diſſenter* worſe than a *Papiſt*, had rather go to Maſs than to a Conventicle, and ſubmit to *French* Tyranny than to a *Whiggiſh* Adminiſtration; O Gentlemen, you want *French* Spectacles, buy them whatever they coſt you.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips; my Lord ———, and my Lord ———, that make us nuge long Speeches, and then print them. And you worthy Miniſters of State, *that would be*, from N°. 1. to N°. 9. that are for changing the Miniſtry, not becauſe they are chargeable by you with Miſmanagements, but becauſe they are *Whigs*; that want an Adminiſtration of mad Men and *High Flyers*, that would ruin the Conſtitution,

Election, and overthrow the Succeſſion for the Good of the Proteſtant Religion. Will your Lordſhips be pleas'd but to buy ſome *French* Spectacles, they will wonderfully enlarge your Opticks, and bring it to your Cogitation, how admirably a *Jacobite* Miniſtry would introduce a *Popiſh* Succeſſor, and that by Conſequence effectually ſettle Liberty and Property, *a la-mode* St. *Germains*.

Thus you have a brief Account of ſome of thoſe many Sorts of People, to whom *French* Spectacles would at this Time be very uſeful.

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☞ I *Thomas Pritchard*, at the *Saracens-Head* in *Little Carter Lane*, near St. *Paul's*, *London*, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. *Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*, *London*, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever ſince.

This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonſtreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at laſt I apply'd my ſelf to the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Truſſes and Rupture Spirits, with the Bleſſing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever ſince, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son *P. Bartlett* lives at the ſame Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the ſame Buſineſs, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Educated therein.

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